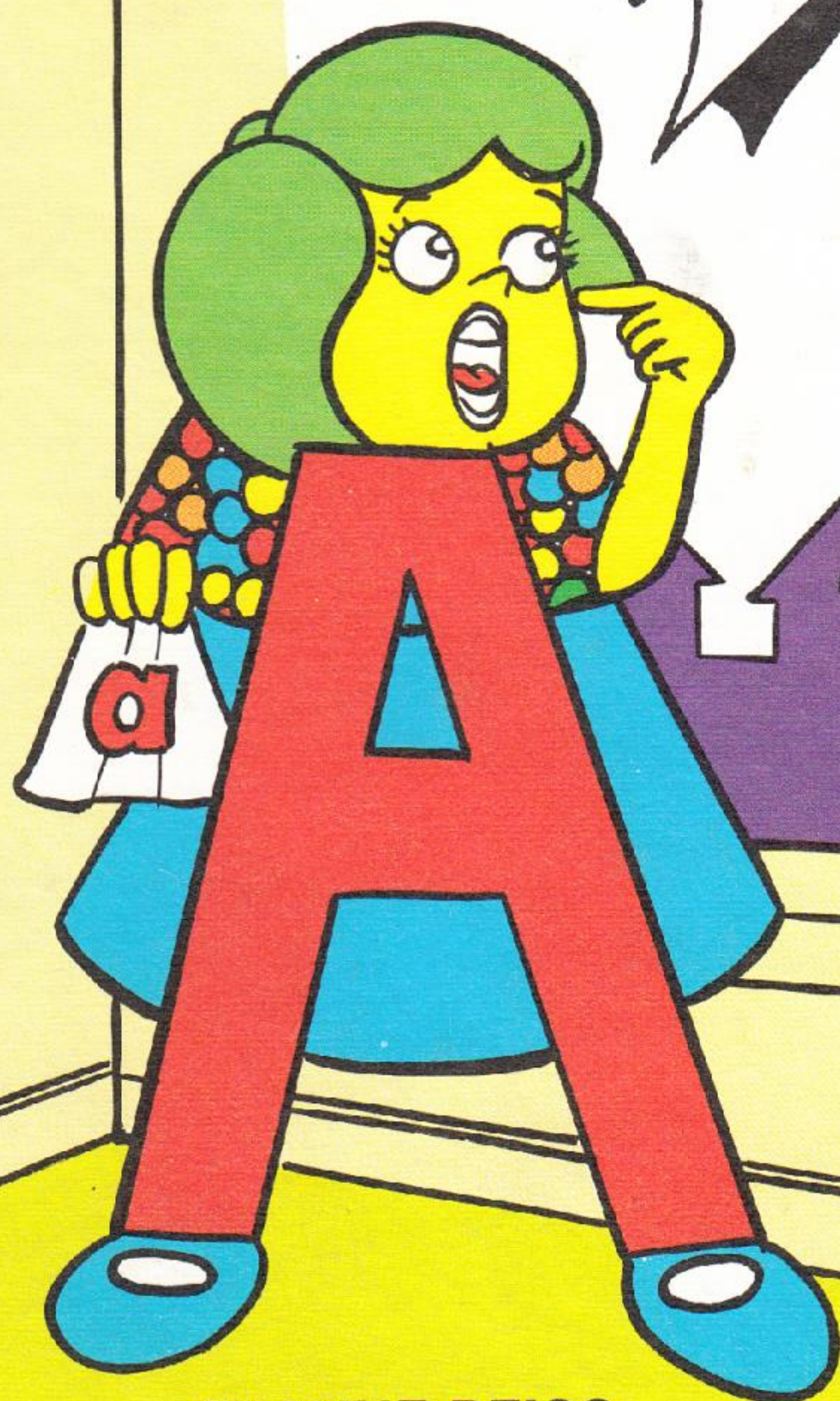


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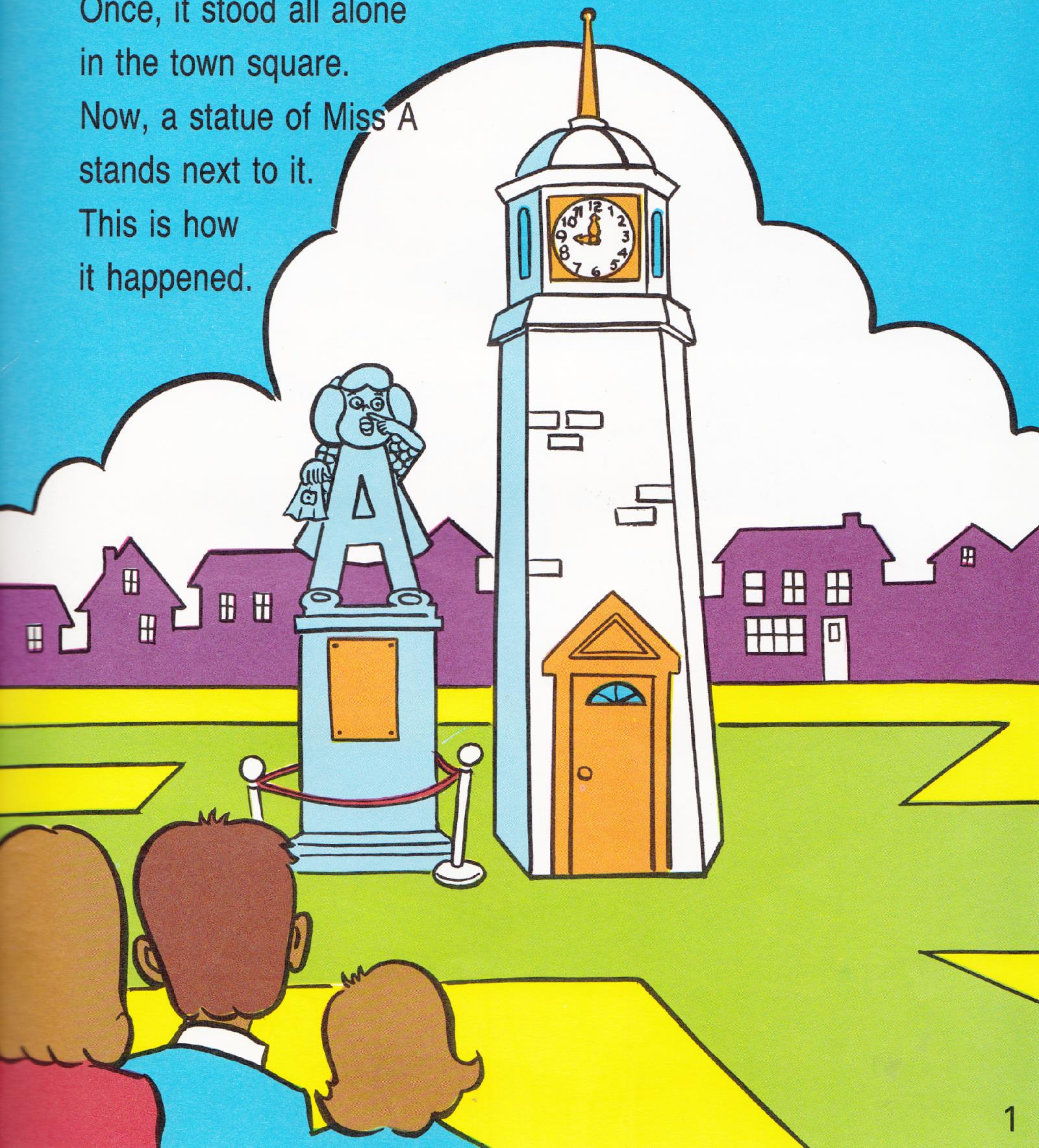
ELAYNE REISS-
WEIMANN
RITA FRIEDMAN

In Letter People Land there is an antique clock.

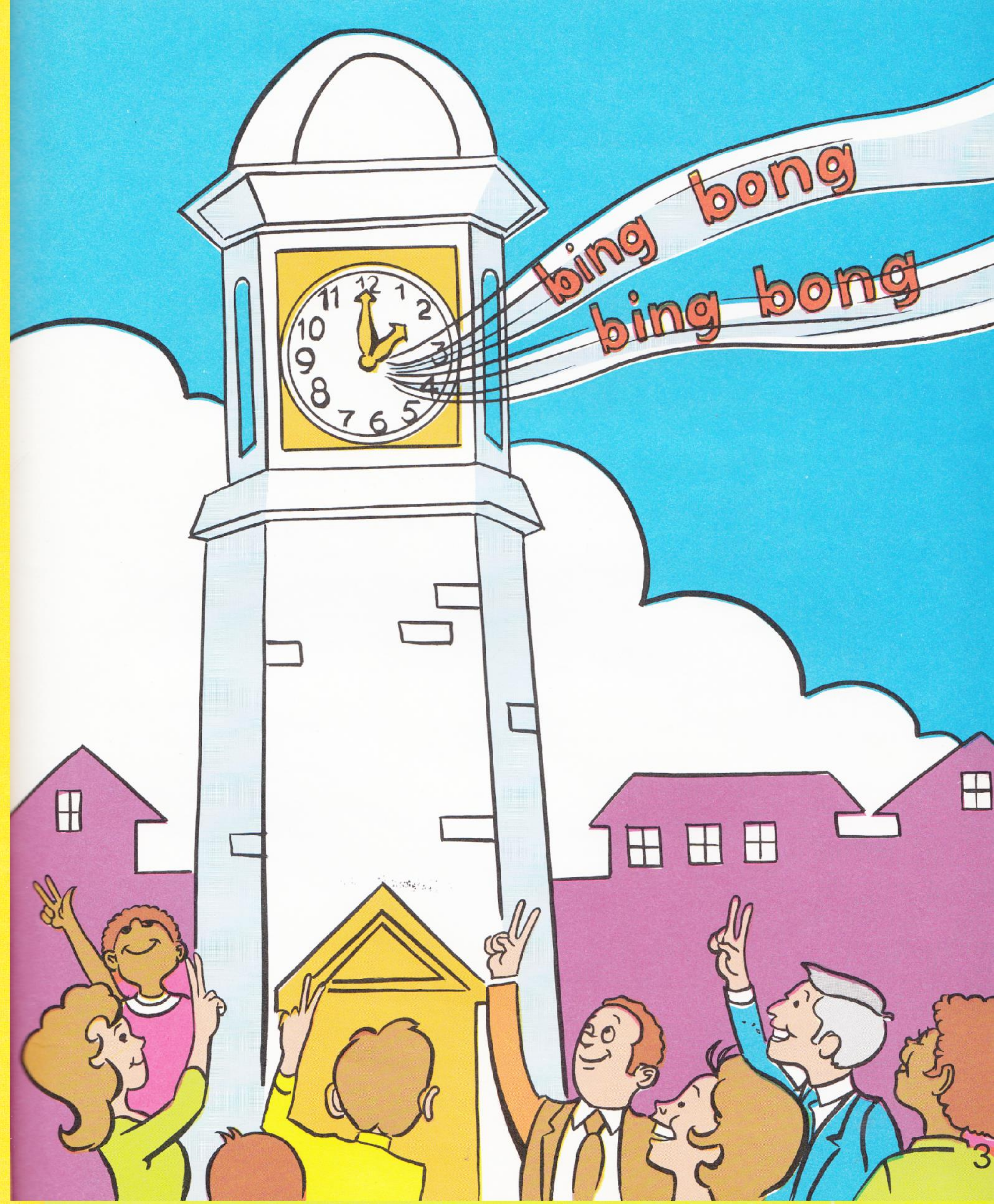
Once, it stood all alone
in the town square.

Now, a statue of Miss A
stands next to it.

This is how
it happened.



The antique clock is very important to Letter People Land.
It is the only clock that strikes every hour.
At one o'clock, it strikes bing bong one time.
At two o'clock, it strikes bing bong two times.
Every hour, people hear the clock
and know what time it is.
They count the number of bing bongs they hear.

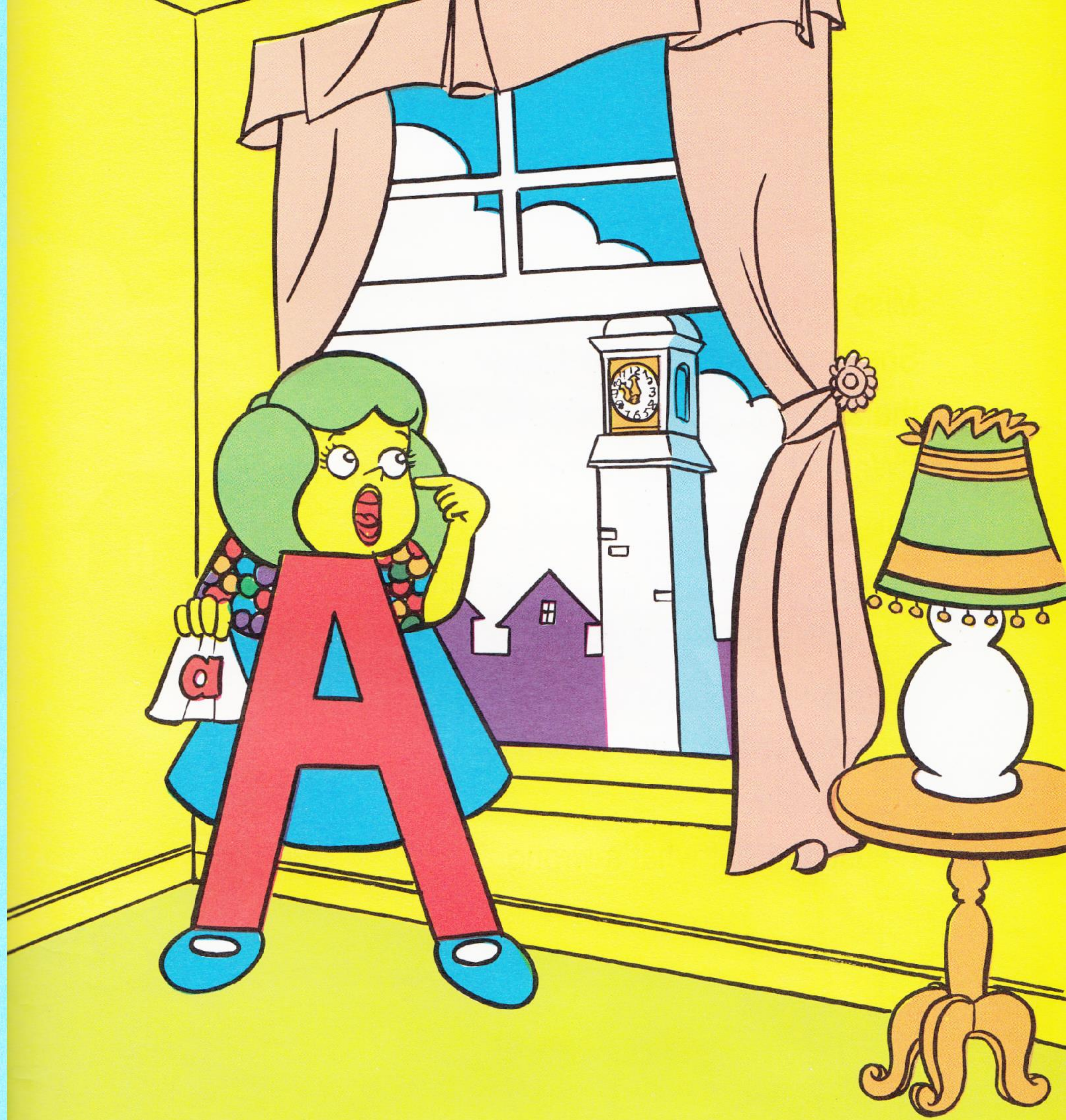


Every morning at ten o'clock,
Miss A practices her *a-choo*
with the antique clock.

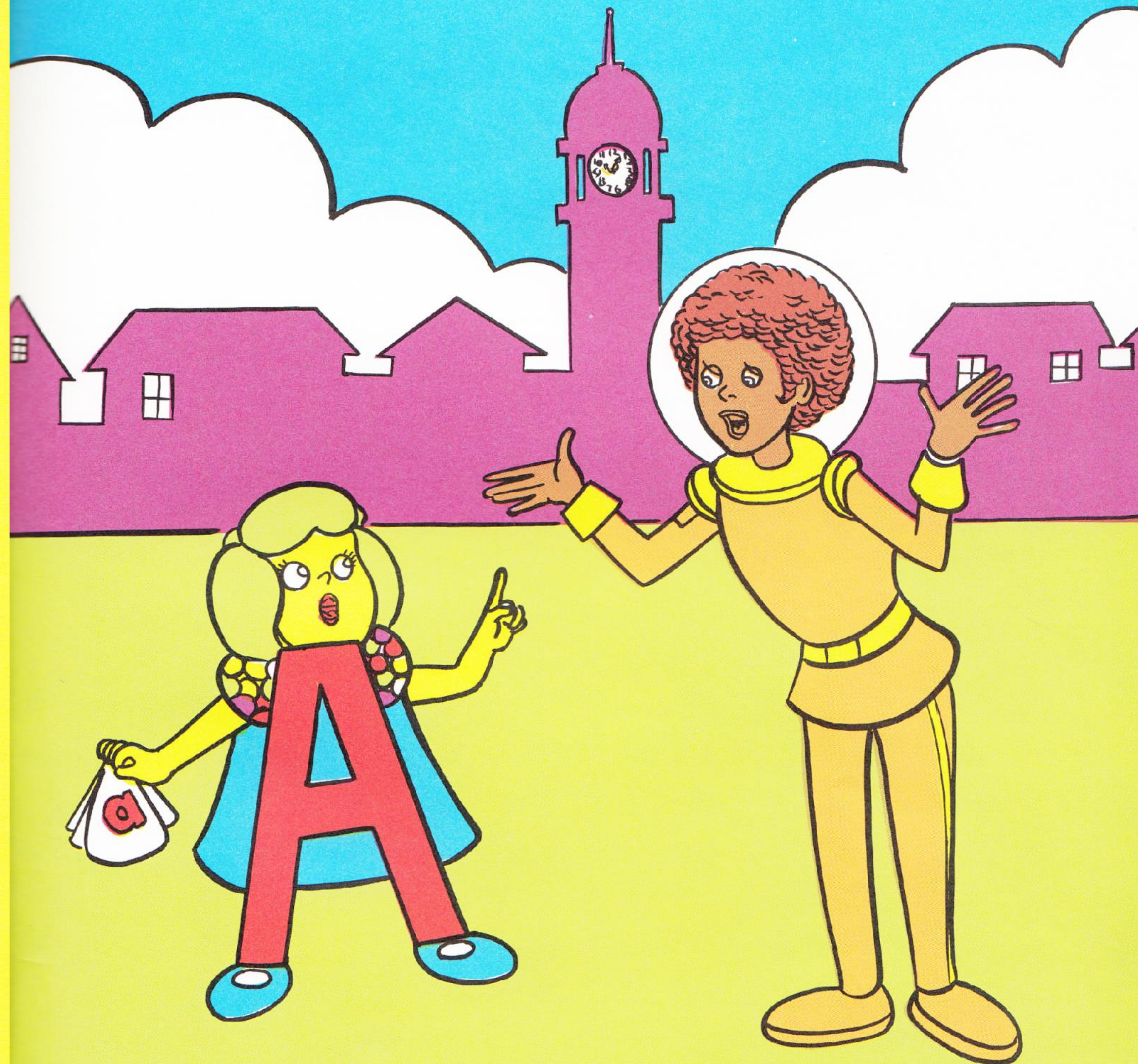
The antique clock strikes bing bong ten times.
Each time the clock strikes bing bong,
Miss A sneezes *a-choo*.

One morning, Miss A waits and waits,
but the clock does not strike.

"I must find out what is wrong," thinks Miss A.



Miss A rushes out of her house.
She is surprised to see Allyson,
the astronaut of Letter People Land.
“Weren’t you going to the moon this morning?”
asks Miss A.
“I was planning to blast off at ten o’clock,”
answers the astronaut.
“Everyone in the control tower
listened for the clock to strike.
It never did.
I must find out what’s wrong.”



Miss A and the astronaut hurry toward the town square.
They meet Anton the acrobat.

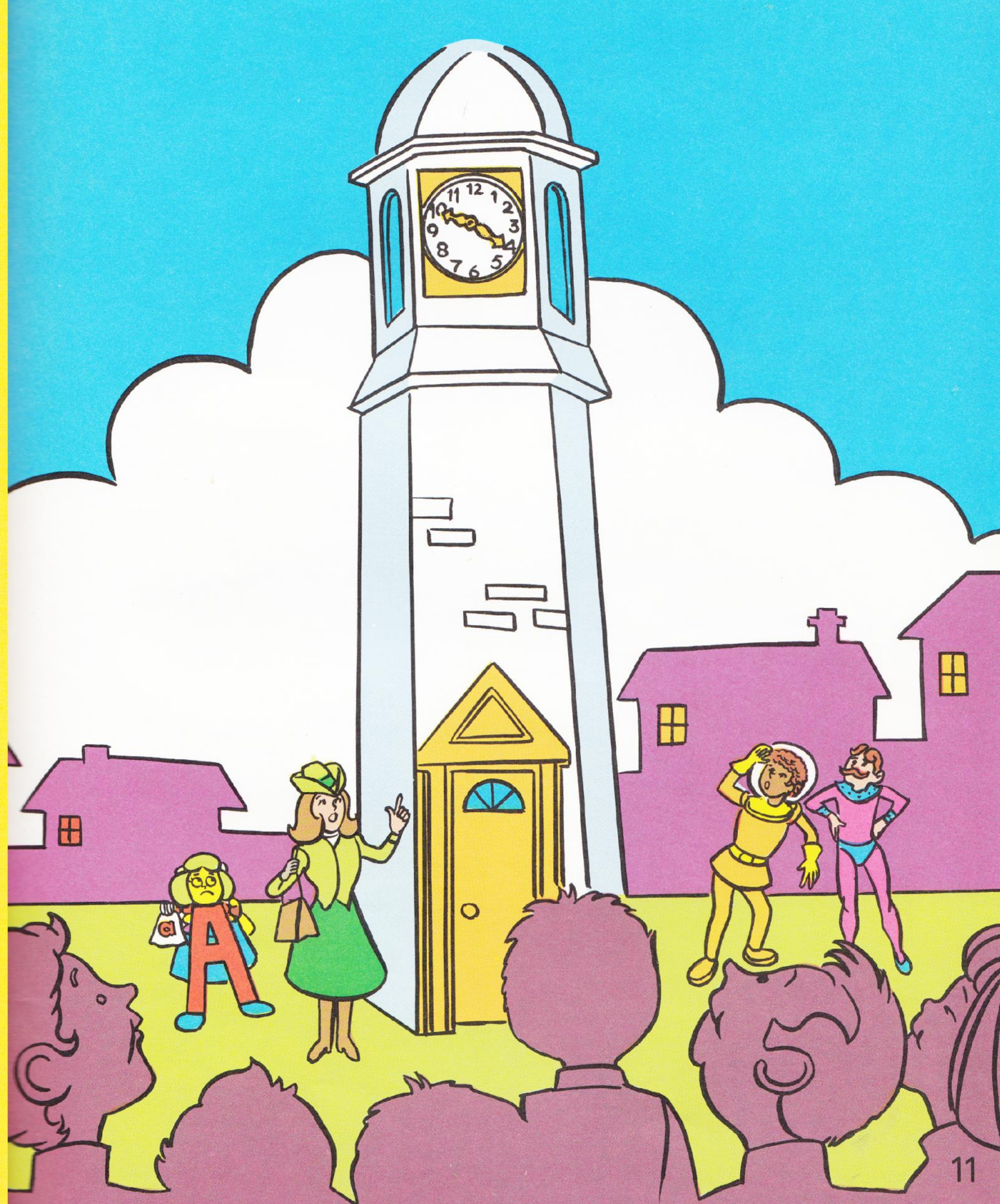
“Weren’t you planning to perform this morning?”
they ask.

“I asked the children to come when they heard
the clock strike ten,” answers Anton.

“The clock did not not strike.
The children did not come.
I must find out what’s wrong.”



The town square is crowded.
Everyone is looking up at the antique clock
“Do not be upset,” says the mayor.
“I telephoned the Action Advisers.
They are in the clock tower now.
The Action Advisers will know
why the clock won’t strike.”



The Action Advisers come down from the clock tower.
“The clock will not strike bing bong anymore,” they say.
“Why not?” asks Miss A.
“Bing bong is a fine sound.”
“We think it is, but the antique clock
wants to make a sound no other clock makes.
It wants a sound that is unique,”
answer the Action Advisers.
“We will return in a few days with different sounds
for the clock to try.”



“What will we do until the Action Advisers return?”
ask the people.

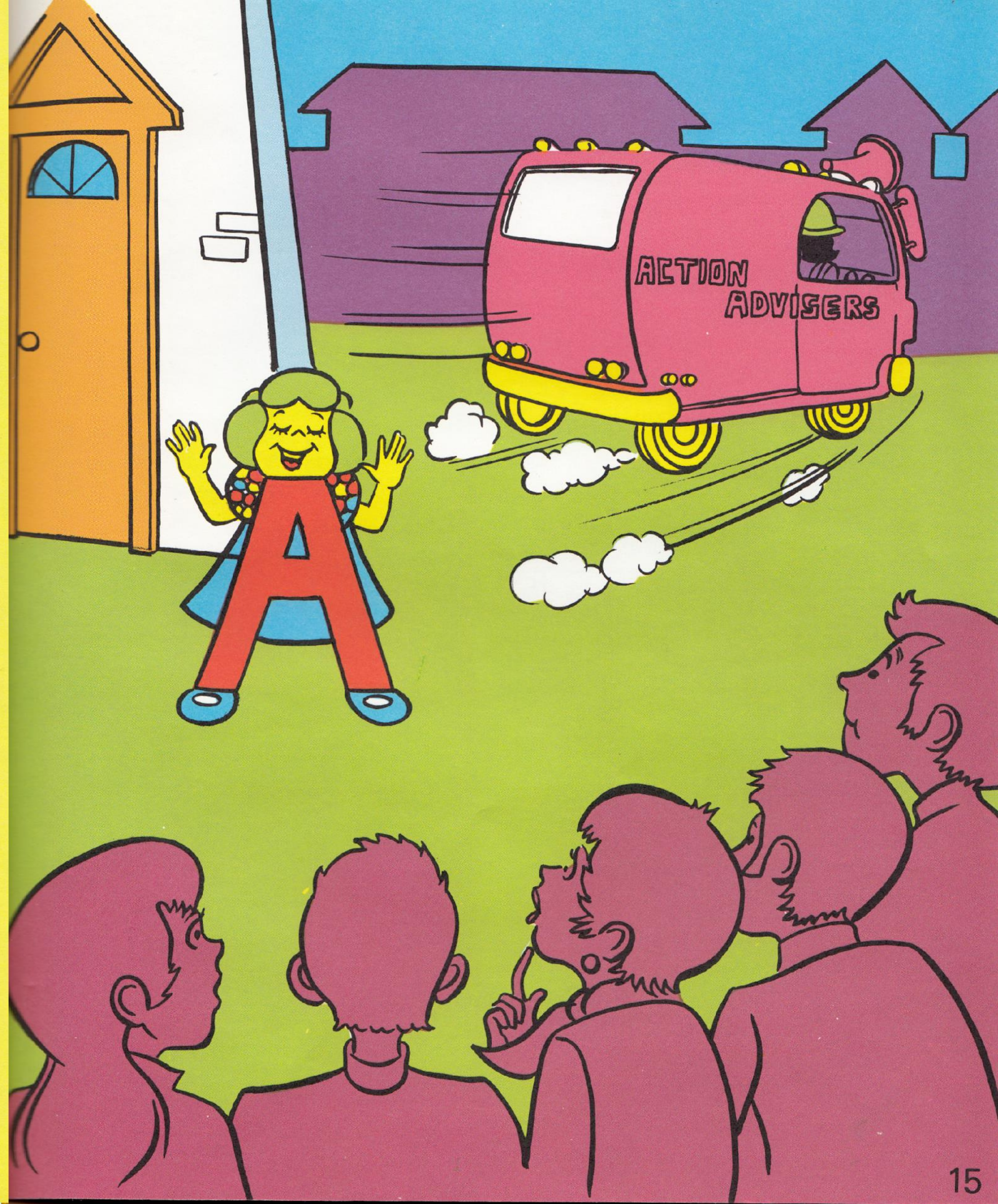
“We will not be able to hear the time
from the clock tower.”

“I’ll make sure you do,” says Miss A.

“Every day, I will stay in the clock tower
from early morning until evening.”

“How will we hear the time
if you are in the clock tower?” ask the people.

“I promise that you will,” answers Miss A.



Miss A hurries away.

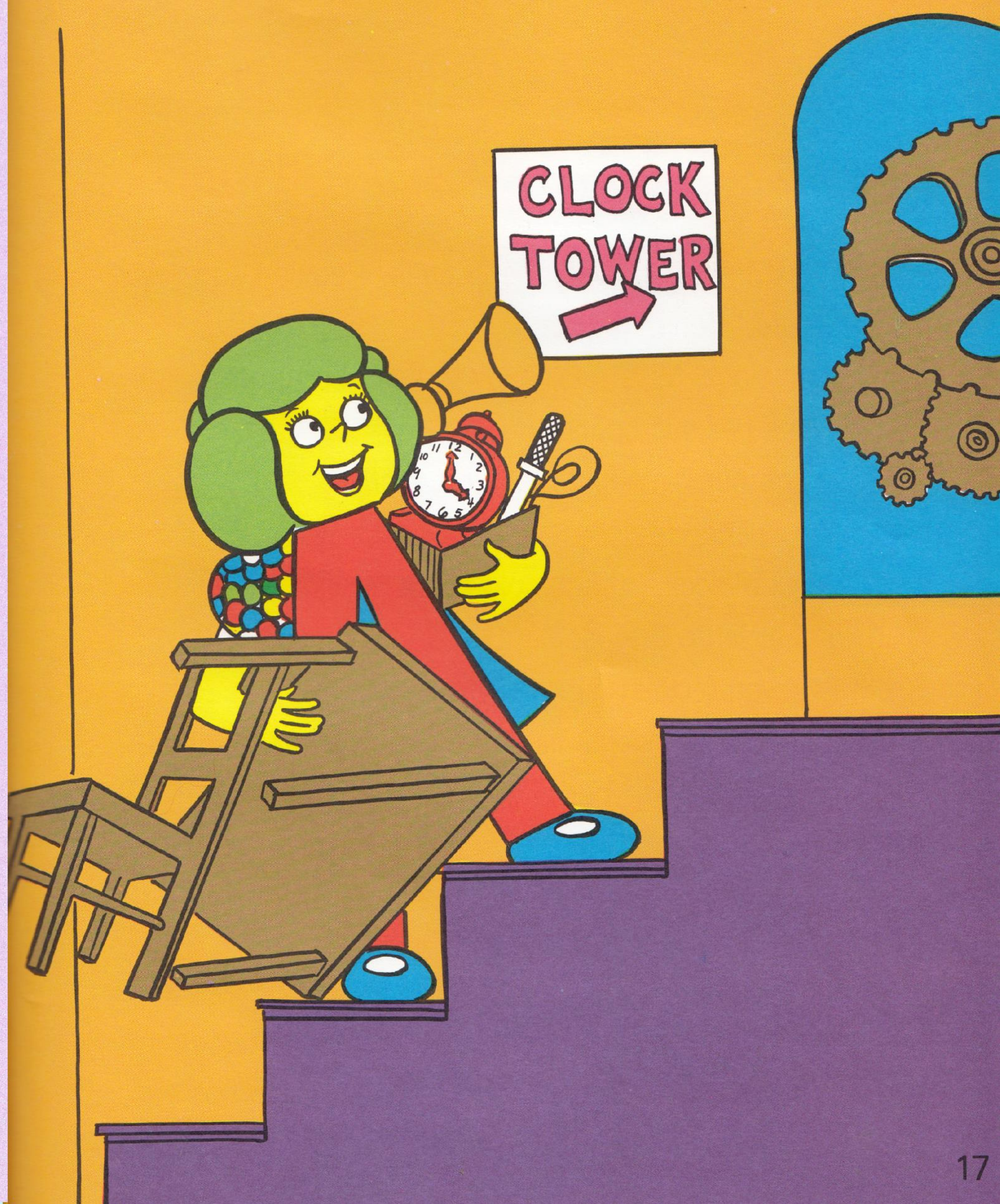
“I will need many things,” she thinks.

She rushes from place to place.

At last, Miss A has everything she needs.

She carries everything up the stairs to the clock tower.

“Tomorrow morning, I will keep my promise,”
she thinks happily as she leaves.



The next morning, everyone in Letter People Land waits and listens.

At six o'clock, Miss A is ready to keep her promise. She gets her microphone.

Everyone hears "A-choo, a-choo, a-choo, a-choo, a-choo, a-choo."

"It is six o'clock," the people shout.

One hour later, the people hear *a-choo* seven times.

"It is seven o'clock," they shout.

Every hour, the people listen and know what time it is.

They count the number of *a-choos* they hear.



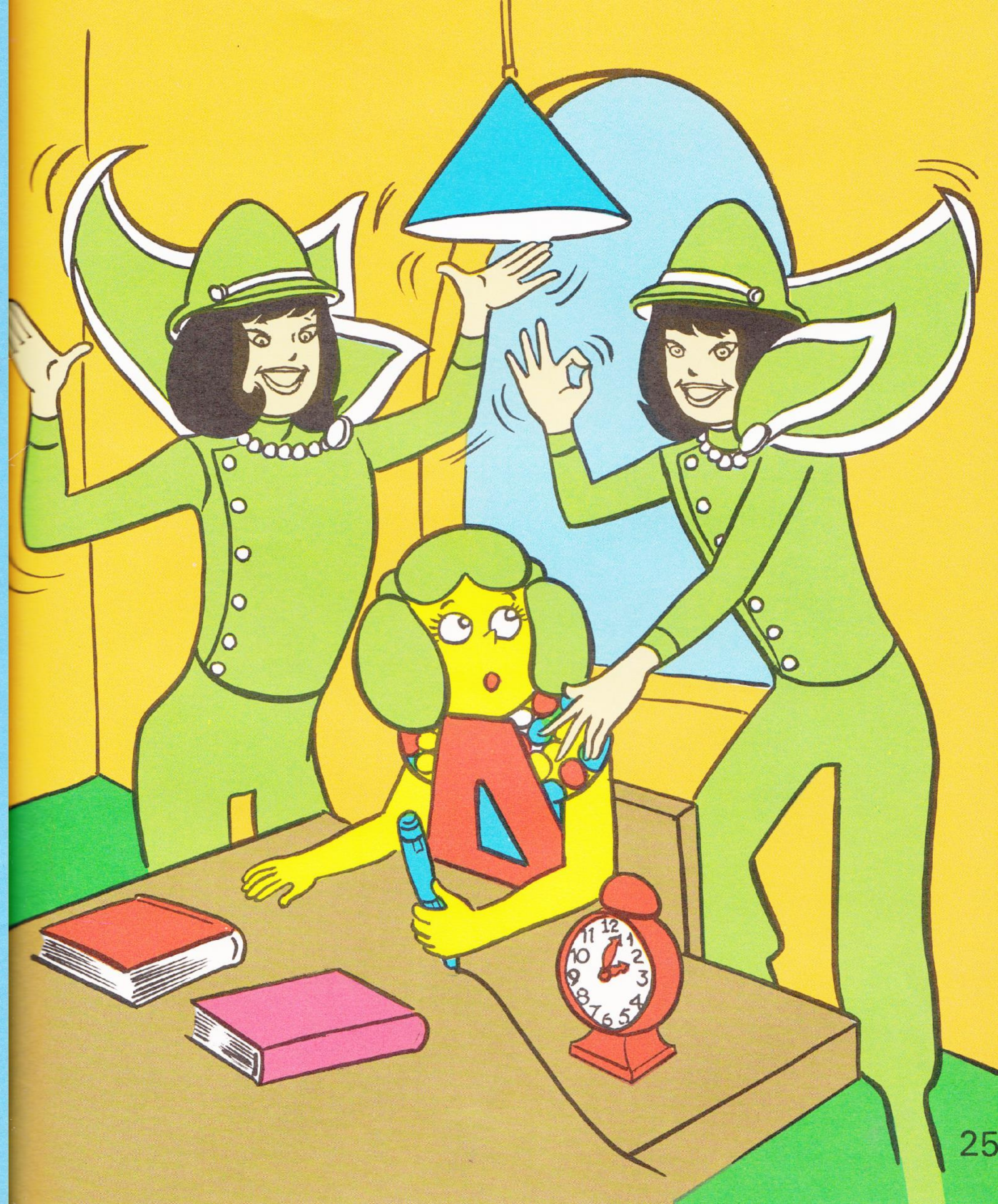
Day after day, Miss A keeps her promise.
Every hour, the people hear the time.
At last, the Action Advisers return.
They try many clock sounds in the antique clock.
“Will the clock use any of the sounds?” asks Miss A.
“No,” answer the Action Advisers sadly.
“The clock will not strike
until we find a sound that is unique.”
“Where will you find a sound
that no other clock makes?” asks Miss A.
“We do not know,” answer the Action Advisers.



Miss A tells the Action Advisers not to worry.
“I will keep coming to the clock tower
until you find a unique sound,” says Miss A.
“Oh! It is almost two o’clock.”
Miss A rushes to get her microphone.
“A-choo, a-choo,” she sneezes.
“What a wonderful way to hear the time,”
smile the Action Advisers.
“Every a-choo sounds exactly as if a clock is striking.”



Suddenly, the Action Advisers look at each other.
“Miss A has given us the answer,” they shout.
“Tomorrow afternoon, we will return
with a unique sound.
It will be a sound no other clock has ever made.
At two o’clock the antique clock will strike.”

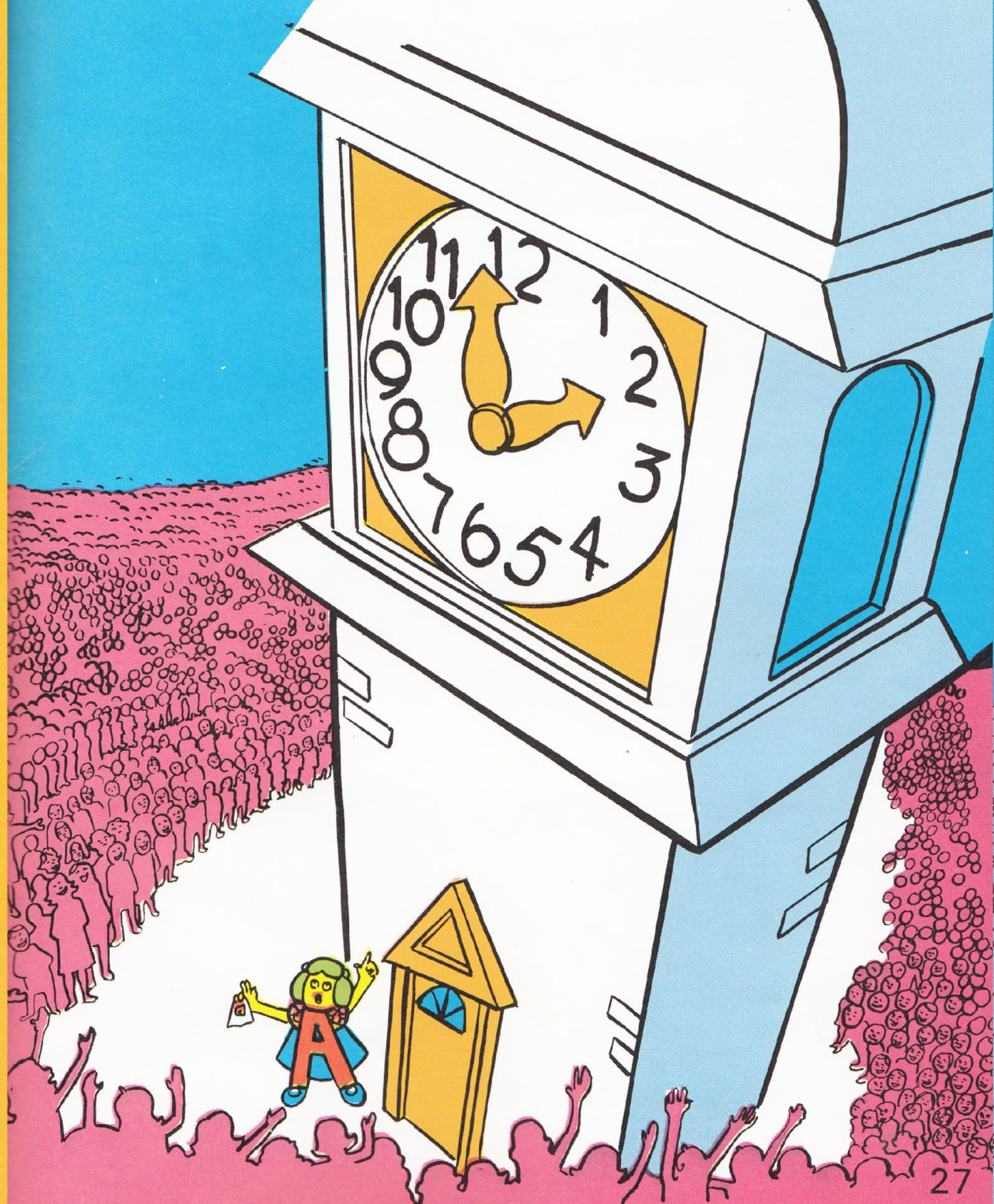


The next afternoon, the people meet
in the town square.

They cheer when they see Miss A.

“We will miss hearing *a-choo* from the clock tower,”
says the mayor.

“Look,” cries Miss A,
“it is time for the clock to strike.”



Everyone waits.
Everyone listens.
The clock strikes.
It strikes





You can hear many clocks strike ding dong.
You can hear many clocks strike bing bong.
You can even hear many clocks strike cuckoo.
But did you ever hear a clock strike *a-choo*?